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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 651
By Davis L

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ms. Vera Button for her
laudable service to the community of Woody and
the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those
persons who, through their personal and professional efforts, have distinguished themselves as
community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, these esteemed individuals have made praiseworthy accomplishments and
are credits to their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Vera Button is most assuredly one such remarkable person deserving
of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the Woody community, Ms. Button's smiling face and warm
greeting from behind the counter of A.H. Rose grocery store has kept customers coming back to
the town's oldest grocery store for nearly 65 years; and

WHEREAS, after working for several years as a miner, Vera Button's father, A.H. Rose,
decided to get out of the mining business and moved to the Woody area around 1935; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Rose briefly tried his hand at farming, but soon came to the conclusion that he could make a good living running a grocery store; and

WHEREAS, a busy intersection was the chosen site for the new store with living quarters built in the back so the Roses would be near the store; and

WHEREAS, after getting married and beginning a family, Vera and her husband, Alvin, moved to the Woody area to be near her parents and help mind the store; and

WHEREAS, since moving to Woody, the store has been Vera's life—her three sons, Ray, Tommy, and Charles, were all raised in the store; and

WHEREAS, A.H. Rose grocery store began as a general merchandise store that sold a little bit of everything, including flour, sugar, lard, and feed for animals, and customers would sometimes trade their eggs and produce for their groceries; and

WHEREAS, the store became such a community center that the postal service would leave the mail of rural families that it couldn't get to in severe weather at the store to be distributed as customers were able to make it in; and

WHEREAS, although the store's official hours are 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., customers are always stopping by after hours for last-minute essentials; Vera's son, Tommy, who now runs the store, jokes about the store being open "eight days a week," even on Thanksgiving and Christmas; and

WHEREAS, Vera Button has been there for it all—she has not missed a day in the store since 1955, when the store was closed for a week so the Buttons could visit family in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in the limited spare time that she has, Vera Button enjoys putting puzzles together, quilting and visiting with her nine-year-old great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Vera Button epitomizes the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and friend, Ms. Button is a source of inspiration to all those who know and cherish her; she is the perfect example of a person totally committed to the highest ideals and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Ms. Vera Button for her meritorious service to the community of Woody, while extending our best wishes for success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.